

~~Overseas Press Club~~ ✓
Club

Bassity, Matthew A.R.
CIA 3.01.3 Journalists
(orig under ORG 1)

6 October 1976

Mr. Matthew A. R. Bassity
President, Overseas Press Club
of America, Inc.
Hotel Biltmore
55 East 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Bassity,

We are pleased to know that the Board of Governors of the Overseas Press Club has now studied the Director's statement of February 11 promulgating the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency regarding its relations with working journalists. Your continuing concern appears to be rooted in a simple misunderstanding which I hope to clarify: Briefly, it is immaterial whether the CIA's "paid or contractual relationship" covered by the Director's statement is construed as involving a CIA employee working as a journalist or a journalist working for the CIA. The language of the statement was intended to, and clearly does, apply to both situations.

As for giving "global" currency to the Director's statement, that, Sir, is surely entirely up to the press. The credibility and the lives of American intelligence officers have been not only endangered but destroyed through the irresponsible sensationalism in some of the media. Any contribution you may make to the "other side of the coin" will be welcome not only by this Agency but, we are certain, by the American public as well.

On behalf of the Director, I hope that the clarification of his February 11 statement will enhance the new understanding of the Agency's position indicated by your letter of September 24.

With good wishes.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Andrew T. Falkiewicz
Assistant to the Director
of Central Intelligence

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